

Literature Then & Now

Stories That Broke — and Rebuilt — the World

Dvouletý seminář (3.– 4. ročník) Instructor: **Tereza Bílek**

A **discussion-based** seminar for students who enjoy reading and want to explore **20th- and 21st-century literature in English** — *learning how to think, question, and talk about the world through stories.*

Small group • Safe space • Big ideas • Linking literature to real life, psychology & society

YEAR 1 — 20th CENTURY

When the world stopped making sense

Literature shaped by war, psychological crisis, and the collapse of certainty. Students learn **how stories break, fragment, and experiment** when reality itself feels unstable (themes like: power, control, and dehumanization, alienation & the outsider, postmodernism: when stories don't behave)

Authors may include

Woolf • Kafka • Orwell • Huxley • Rhys • Camus • Beckett • Carter • Vonnegut

YEAR 2 — 21st CENTURY

Living with the aftermath

Contemporary literature responding to identity, systems, technology, and everyday ethics. The focus shifts from collapse to **how people live, adapt, and search for meaning now**. Identity as a process (themes like: gender, race, selfhood, power systems today, technology and reality)

Authors may include

Ali Smith • Alison Bechdel • Kazuo Ishiguro • Alice Munro • Margaret Atwood • Martin McDonagh

Wait, "just" reading?! Occasional **cultural outings** 🎭 — contemporary playwrights and NT Live Theater

Practical info:

Level: B2+

Reading: ~3 books per year (+ extracts)

Assessment: one in-class 500-word essay per semester (3 topics, revealed on the spot)
